



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - April 8, 2002

- ***In the West***, mild weather is prompting winter wheat to begin breaking dormancy across the ***interior Northwest***. Meanwhile in the ***Southwest***, weekend showers provided only limited relief from extremely dry conditions.
- ***On the Plains***, generally light, beneficial showers are dampening the drought-stressed winter wheat crop across ***central areas***, including parts of ***Kansas***. Elsewhere, cool, unfavorably dry conditions prevail on the ***northern Plains***, while dry weather is returning to the ***southern Plains***, following beneficial weekend showers.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, unfavorably dry conditions linger across ***western areas***. Farther east, rain is helping to replenish soil moisture reserves across the ***central Corn Belt***, while cool weather continues to limit winter wheat development from the ***Ohio Valley to the lower Great Lakes region***.
- ***In the South***, locally heavy showers and thunderstorms from the ***Delta westward*** are maintaining adequate to locally excessive soil moisture reserves. Meanwhile in the ***southern Atlantic region***, favorable topsoil moisture levels continue to favor the development of pastures, winter grains, and spring-sown crops, despite underlying long-term drought.

Outlook: A slow-moving storm system will provide abundant rain to the ***South and East*** through mid-week. For the remainder of the week, mild, dry weather will trail the storm across the ***central and southern Plains and the Midwest***. Elsewhere, cool, showery conditions will begin to overspread the ***northern Plains and Northwest***, while warm, dry weather will prevail in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 13-17 calls for near- to above-normal temperatures to prevail nearly nationwide. Mostly dry weather is forecast in the ***East***, but wetter-than-normal conditions are expected in the ***Northwest*** and from the ***south-central U.S. to the Midwest***.

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